

Board Meeting Summary: February 3, 2015

Chairman Evans called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Motion to amend agenda to remove Durham Bus Contract Amendment from Board Action and remove four sets of minutes from the consent agenda. Approved.

Pledge of Allegiance followed by invocation.

Student showcase by Battery Creek students, led by Ms. Carizma Thomas, presented "What If..."

Points of Celebration

We'd like to recognize our 58 counselors throughout the district in honor of National Counselors Week. I had a chance to deliver certificates to some counselors yesterday as I visited schools, and I'm extremely grateful for the hard work of all of our counselors in our district. They have a tremendous impact on helping students to achieve school success and plan their futures. While it's hard to sum up all the responsibilities of school counselors, I'd like to read a proclamation from the American School Counseling Association (reads proclamation).

Another group we'd like to recognize is Junior Scholars. Each middle school recognizes eighth-graders who score greater than 50 on the PSAT and participate in the Duke Talent Identification Program. This year, we have 141 Junior Scholars throughout our district. The State Department of Education created this recognition program to identify students with exceptional academic talent and determine strategies for including them in special programs. The Junior Scholars will be honored at a banquet next month where they will receive certificates for this achievement.

Finally tonight, we have a very special teacher in the audience. Hilton Head Island Elementary School fourth-grade teacher Michele Quigley was honored Saturday night as the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's 2015 "Sue West Educator of the Year." Michele is the current Teacher of the Year for her school and has been a pioneer in teaching a "flipped classroom. She was hired by Principal McAden five years ago but was no stranger to our district. Michele is a graduate of Hilton Head Island High School. She is working to become a master naturalist through the Lowcountry Institute and works to teach "homebound" students who are unable to physically attend class in school. We are all very proud of her commitment to her students and the teaching profession.

Public Comments

Two parents expressed concerns about special needs issues.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Evans reported the new schedules of committee meetings: the Legislative Committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month. Curriculum and Instruction will meet the second Tuesday of each month, Human Resources committee will meet the third Tuesday of each month, and Students Services will meet the fourth Tuesday of each month. Finance and Operations will meet the third Thursday of each month.

Mr. Evans also reported that he is working with Beaufort County Council to prepare for a February 18 meeting with the Legislative Delegation and McNair Law Firm in Columbia to discuss funding.

Committee Reports:

ACE: Mary Cordray reported that the committee will attend a work session Saturday. The next meeting has been cancelled due to Jasper representatives' unavailability and will be rescheduled.

Ad-Hoc Naming Committee: While this was included by mistake, Board members took the chance to remind everyone that Right Choices is now an independent school. Recommendations for a school mascot and colors will be made to the Student Services Committee.

Curriculum and Instruction: Geri Kinton reported that the committee met today and approved items for the next consent agenda. The next committee meeting is March 10.

Finance and Operations: Paul Roth reported that the committee's next meeting is at 4:30 p.m. February 12 at the district office.

Human Resources: Michael Rivers reported that the committee will meet after the salary study is available, and the committee will also review Performance Expectations.

Legislative Committee: Earl Campbell reported that the committee met on January 27 and is making a recommendation for Board member candidate filing process.

Student Services: Evva Anderson reported that the committee will meet February 9 and 24 to discuss Right Choices and the possibility of attendance zone changes due to rapid growth in Bluffton.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Moss introduced Chief Instructional Services Officer Dereck Rhoads to give updates. Ross Hendrix, Technology Officer, and Chrissy Robinson, Director of Instructional Technology gave an update on the Connect2Learn initiative. The delivery of tablets to all high schools has been completed. In the year since embarking on the Connect2Learn initiative, over more than 1,100 teachers have attended visioning training, 11,000 devices were distributed to elementary and middle schools in the fall semester, and tablets were distributed to all high schools in January. Next steps include allowing elementary students to take devices home, increasing bandwidth and infrastructure and replacing tablets at the middle school level at the end of the school year.

Dr. Rhoads gave an update on the petitions for diplomas since Act 155 was repealed last year. The total number of petitions filed is 153, and approximately 75% have met the criteria and will be awarded a diploma.

Dr. Rhoads introduced Bob Semmler, Director of STARBASE, to give an update on activities during the first semester. Since September the program, which is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense, has seen 626 fifth grade students in 25 sessions (not all are Beaufort County Schools).

Board Business

Motion to recommend a \$50 filing fee for non-partisan board candidate participation. Not approved.

Motion to recommend a waiver of fees for non-partisan board candidate participation. Approved.

New Business

No new business.

Motion to approve consent agenda as amended. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.